

REMARKS

Claims 7-12 and 14-16 were pending in the application. The Examiner has objected to Claim 7 and has rejected Claim 7 as indefinite. Applicants herein cancel Claim 7, but note that the limitations of Claim 7 have been added to allowable Claim 11, as well as to parallel Claims 12 and 17. Applicants have addressed the objections and rejections of Claim 7 under 35 USC 112 in amending Claims 11 and 12 and in writing Claim 17. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 8 and 12 as indefinite. The amendments Claims 11 and 12 address those rejections.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7-10, 12, and 15-16 and has indicated that Claims 11 and 14 are allowable but are objected to as depending from rejected base claims. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 11 into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. In so amending, Applicants have also addressed the Examiner's concerns with the language of the base claim and an intervening claim. Applicants believe that the amended independent claim 11 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended the dependency of Claims 15 and 16 and respectfully assert that Claims 15 and 16 are also allowable.

Claim 11 recites the allowable speech recognition method. Applicants have amended independent Claim 12, directed to a program storage device, to include all of the limitations of allowable Claim 11. Applicants believe that the amendments place Claim 12 in condition for allowance.

Applicants have added independent Claim 17, directed to a speech recognition system for implementing the allowable speech recognition method and have included parallel limitations to those in allowable Claim 11. The claim language is supported by the original Specification and by the original Claims 1-6. Applicants believe that Claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, and issuance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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